

KOL KALLAH

The Newsletter of the
Erna Lindenfeld
Hachnosas Kallah Fund
of Queens

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AN ORGANIZATION AND A TEA WE CAN DEPEND ON

By Lorey Friedman

Hurricane Sandy showed us that we cannot depend on the trees to stand tall, the sidewalks to stay flat and the oceans to stay distant from land. But the Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah Fund of Queens taught us that we and so many Kallahs in need can always rely on their yearly tea and the dedication of this important organization to help start beautiful Jewish homes.

Thus, on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 the Electchester Electrical Building was host to the 29th Annual Tea. Under the direction of Mrs. Nechama Biderman, a team of volunteers did a superb job preparing an array of delicious salads, wrapping gifts, decorating tables and turning the room into an elegant simcha hall. The dedicated group of volunteers in Hachnosas Kallah is determined to make a gala tea where all money brought in goes directly towards helping Kallahs begin their married life in a respectable, dignified and less stressful way. If money is spent on the tea, then generous sponsors are found to donate the needed funds. Hachnosas Kallah certainly is a model of a non-profit organization who keeps their focus and purpose of what they are here for in the forefront of their minds.

As the future generation of Hachnosas Kallah leaders (the Shevach High School students) voluntarily walked around serving tea and coffee. Mrs. Tova Well offered

introductory remarks before introducing the president of the organization, Mrs. Shifra Witty. She explained Rav Dessler's wisdom that it is not enough to speak words without having those words penetrate our hearts. Mrs. Witty praised the Hachnosas Kallah volunteers for not just speaking words, but for putting those words into action. She also offered sincere gratitude to Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld who is the guiding light of Hachnosas Kallah.

This year the Hachnosas Kallah Tea was greatly enhanced by having guest speaker Rebbetzin Yael Marcus of Congregation Ishei Yisrael impart inspiring and meaningful words of Torah to all those in attendance. For the past seven years, Rabbi and Mrs. Marcus and their beautiful family have enhanced the Kew Gardens Hills community. Their popular, vibrant and growing shul is home to many single, married and professional Baal Habaatim in the neighborhood. She related a story where she personally saw how Hachnosas Kallah arranged a wedding in just a few weeks, for a couple with an ailing father. Defying all odds, Hachnosas Kallah made an emotional, hard time into a simcha without the financial burden. The mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah is a mitzvah that when performed properly can enable us to see the benefits, beauty and rewards immediately. Rebbetzin Marcus further explained that anyone who brings joy to a Chasan and Kallah brings the Geulah one step closer.

In addition, Rebbetzin Marcus reminded the audience that the mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah begins by turning all the singles in our community (and beyond) into Chasans and Kallahs. She helped us remember that we must never underestimate the power of tefillah and the strength



Shifra Witty, President of Hachnosas Kallah with Reb. Ruth Schonfeld, Founder of Hachnosas Kallah

that emunah and bitachon can give us.

With clarity and poignancy, Rebbetzin Marcus explained why a person's journey in life or how long it takes to find your spouse is compared to Krias Yom Suf. Some of us entered the Yom Suf on the inner side while some entered on the outer. Those who entered on the inner part had a shorter distance to travel than the others. Similar to a race track, the person running on the inner lane has a much shorter distance to run than the one on the outer lane. When

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Reb. Yael Marcus of Cong. Ishei Yisrael with her two daughters, Elisheva and Avigayil

NEXT YEAR'S TEA

Through the gracious generosity of Rabbi Marshall Korn, Rabbi Dr. Aaron and Mrs. Margie Glatt, Mr. Ronny and Mrs. Adina Korn, and Mr. Reuben and Mrs. Karen Zimilover, this year's annual tea will be dedicated to the memory of their beloved wife and mother **Ethel Korn a" h**

Will YH be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013



The Golden Couple

By **Rabbi Moshe Bamberger**

Mashgiach Ruchani of Beis Medrash L'Talmud / Lander College for Men

When the great Rosh Yeshivah of the famed Lomzha Yeshivah, Rabbi Yechiel Michel Gordon (1882-1964), visited London, he received a letter from his daughter Frieda, who was a kallah. Upon reading the letter, Rabbi Gordon fainted!

He explained, upon coming to, that the letter was in response to a letter he had recently sent her, in which he promised that when he would arrive in America he would try to borrow \$500 from a relative, which would go towards Frieda's dowry. This would enable her to marry her distinguished groom, R' Eizik, in a timely manner.

In her letter to her father, Frieda informed him that one of her friends was in a dire situation. She, too, was engaged, but it seemed that the relationship was in jeopardy as her father had lent \$500 — money earmarked for her dowry — to a party who could not repay the loan. Hence, her wedding plans were on hold; it seemed that her marriage was not to be. The stress and the fear were simply unbearable for her friend, Frieda reported.

Therefore, Frieda wrote, she and her chosson respectfully asked Rabbi Gordon that the money he had planned to borrow for their marriage should go instead towards her friend's! She and Eizik together decided that they would get married without the \$500 and make do with whatever little they had.

This selfless request touched Rabbi Gordon's heart, and those to whom he

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we enter life, we don't know which lane we are taking but as long as we keep "walking" with emunah and bitachon, we will get out of the struggle or "Yom Suf".

To close, Rebbetzin Marcus made another great analogy. She said that marriage can be compared to two grape vines. When vines grow, they lean on each other. Similarly, Hachnosas Kallah teaches Klal Yisroel that in a relationship we should never feel alone. At a time of financial worries, anxiety, stress and sometimes sickness, Hachnosas Kallah shows a family that they are there for them. Like in marriage, we must live our lives remembering that we are not a single entity, but rather we are there for someone else. Hachnosas Kallah provides us with the chance to feel simcha by giving simcha.

No doubt, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Marcus are a tremendous asset not only to their congregants, but to the entire community as well. How fortunate we are to have

them among us.

Next in the program, Mrs. Judy Tuchman spoke in memory of her mother Esther Gruss. Mrs. Tuchman reminded the audience that a Chasan and Kallah are connected long before their wedding day. When they descend to this world, they separate and then at marriage they are fused back together and their souls unite. Mrs. Tuchman explained how grateful her mother Esther would have been to be part of Hachnosas Kallah since chesed was the cornerstone of her upbringing. She expressed much gratitude to be able to honor her mother in such a meaningful and beautiful way.

Representing the Lindenfeld family, Noah Lindenfeld expressed how proud his family is to be part of this organization and how grateful the family is to connect his grandmother's name to an organization that shares the beauty and importance of chesed.

At last, it was time for the musical comedy "Moving through Time" to begin. Even before it began, the audience knew that they were in for a treat, as each year the storyline, singing and acting seems to get better and better.

The original play written by Na'ama Rosenberg, Avigayil Straus and Sherri Kaye had the crowd relating to the struggle of downsizing and simplifying life, while still holding on to



Shevach High School Seniors, from left to right, Shani Schonfeld, Libby Friedman, Miriam Arshadnia, Shevy Willig, Devorah Hertzberg, and Yocheved Peikes volunteer to serve tea and coffee.

showed the letter were deeply moved. Rabbi Yechezkel Abramsky (1886-1976), the Chief Rabbi of London, was so inspired by this compassionate wish that he immediately took it upon himself to raise the necessary funds for the wedding of Frieda's friend.

Soon thereafter, Rabbi Abramsky

excitedly returned to Rabbi Gordon, informing him that he had succeeded in collecting all the funds for the mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah. But he did not stop there. He insisted that he personally be the one to go to the post office to send off the envelope containing the check

Siddurim and Chumashim for your simcha can be rented from Mrs. Biderman's Gemach. Please call (718) 268-6181

With much hakaras hatov, we would like to thank Mr. Mark Frankel and Mr. David Graubard for the many hours they devote to Hachnosas Kallah. Their dedication to the klal has been immensely helpful to our organization.

Without the help of Kaufman Bros. this publication would not be possible. He generously volunteered his time and expertise. Hachnosas Kallah greatly appreciates his valuable recommendations, insights and advice.

precious memories. After all, sometimes life feels like it is produced by our possessions. The important theme running through the play was that we must be thankful to the One above as everything we own is a gift from Hashem. With musical accompaniment by Karen Daitchman, the talented cast including Karen Geiger, Chaya Sarah Hammer, Sherrie Kaye, Sarala Posnick, Na'ama Rosenberg and Avigayil Straus expressed through beautiful songs that life is filled with challenges and curves. But, a house transcends into a home when Torah fills it. With song, dance, humor and tears, this talented cast of busy, professional, mothers and wives reminded us all that a home is made by us and by HaKadosh Baruch Hu and our mitzvos bring light into the home.

The evening ended with lucky raffle winners receiving lovely gifts collected by volunteers from generous vendors. Table prizes and beautiful candles donated for the evening adorned each table.

The Queens community thanks the Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah Fund for providing the Queens community with a constant, dependable agent of opportunity for us to do mitzvos and chesed. May we all continue to help build Klal Yisroel, one Bayis Ne'emana at a time.



Nechama Biderman with her granddaughters

for the marriage, explaining how every single seemingly trivial act of a mitzvah is handsomely rewarded in heaven. Such was Rabbi Abramsky's devotion to every detail of the extraordinary mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah.

ATTENTION KALLAHS AND CHASANIM

When you allocate ma'aser from your wedding gifts, please remember to give generously to hachnosas kallah so those less fortunate may also experience a joyous wedding.

Hachnasas Kallah to the Rescue

By Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld

Rabbi Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills and Co- President Vaad Harabbonim of Queens.

There is a well-known story related by Harav Chaim Kreiswirth ZT"l, rav of Antwerp concerning the mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah. Many years ago Rav Kreiswirth was diagnosed with a dreaded illness r"l. At the time Rav Kreiswirth went to the Steipler Rav in Bnei Brak for a bracha. The Steipler told him to notice the sequence of the mishnah of Elu Devorim Sh'ein L'hem Shiur, "These are matters which have no limit..." which is recited each morning before davening. The mishnah lists Bikur Cholim, Hachnasas Kallah, and Levayas Hames, in that order. It is odd that the Mishnah would place the mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah between visiting the sick and escorting the deceased to his burial.

The Steipler explained to Rav Kreiswirth that we see from this that Hachnasas Kallah is a bulwark between being a choleh, a sick person, and chas v'shalom one needing levayas hames, a funeral. If Rav Kreiswirth would become active in the mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah, that would be certainly help to prevent a dreadful outcome of his illness. It is known that Rav Kreiswirth became extremely active in Hachnosas Kallah and lived for many productive years after his diagnosis.

This brings us to wonder what is it that is so special about this mitzvah that makes it stand out from others? Every tzedaka collector knows that the most lucrative slogan that they can use to be successful in their endeavors is to cry out Hachnasas Kallah! The answer is rather simple. Hachnosas Kallah is the mitzvah that literally effects generations of Jews. It brings simcha to a young lady who otherwise may be forced to live alone. It brings fulfillment to a young man who otherwise might not be fortunate enough to marry his bashert. It gives hope for their progeny to come which may not have happened if not for making their matrimony a reality. It is indeed an all-encompassing mitzvah rivaled by few others.

The Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah project, which is run entirely by



the volunteer efforts of dedicated women in our community, is one of the outstanding organizations dedicated to this cause. Families from both here in America and Eretz Yisrael turn to the fund for assistance in making their simcha possible. May all those involved receive the brachos of everything good for them and their families for years to come.

Tefilos Booklets are available for rental to use at your wedding. The booklets are provided in memory of Mrs. Joan Maybruch, a"h. Please call Chanie Jakubowicz. (718) 263-3873

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Interview with Rachayl Wizenfeld

wrapping parties in our living room and together we would wrap the many gifts that had been donated by others to be distributed as auction gifts at the tea. Several of us sponsored a community wide lecture one year to raise tzedakah for the fund, we had a package party one year for women in the neighborhood, and of course, it goes without saying, that we were always happy to shop together at Fox's to help raise money for Hachnosas Kallah. And BH, over the last few years, each off my roommates from that house and I, all of us in our 30's, have since gotten married.

Are you still very active in ELHK?

The nature of my involvement has changed over the years. There was a time I was able to attend meetings and truly looked forward to them. I found it so humbling to be in a room with the women who run this amazing organization and would often sit quietly around the table and just try to learn from them. B"H I got married almost 4 years ago and am now home with our children and haven't attended a meeting in quite some time. I still remain connected though, and try to help out as much as possible behind the scenes. The women of HK came to my l'chaim, my wedding, and most recently to the bris of our son, and I deeply cherish my friendship with Mrs. Witty. There is room for everyone, single or married, to take part in the mitzvah of hachnosas kallah, even if it may take a little creativity and perseverance. I have gained so much from being involved and am so grateful for having been given the chance to do so.

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Interview with Rachayl Wizenfeld**Can you tell us a little background about yourself?**

I moved to KGH from Baltimore, Maryland in the summer of 2004. I wanted to work in the Jewish community and had accepted a social work position at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. I had a few single friends who had already moved to KGH and although I did not know any families here, I decided it was the right time in my life to make the move. I was very involved in various organizations in Baltimore and hoped that if I moved to KGH, instead of moving to Manhattan, I would have more of a chance to get involved and be an active part of this community as well.

**What drew you to become active in the ELHK?**

Just prior to my moving to New York, I had gotten involved in the Hachnosas Kallah Fund of Baltimore. Similar to the Hachnosas Kallah Fund of Queens, the women running the organization were vigilant about maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the recipients of the tzedakah, and the meetings were run with utmost discretion. I was determined to become involved, and felt that there had to be room for singles to take part in this mitzvah as well. And so, instead of being involved in the distribution of the tzedakah, I recruited a few single friends, and we ran their "Chodesh Gelt" program, where people signed up to give monthly donations. Each month, a few of us would get together and we were responsible to do monthly mailings to all those enrolled in the program, thereby bringing in a steady stream of donations throughout the year. We reached out to the community at large, but specifically targeted our single friends who were working and tried to include them in getting involved in this way.

Within a few months of moving to KGH, I spotted a woman hanging a sign up at the gym regarding the Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah Annual Tea. Unbeknownst to me at the time, it was Mrs. Witty, and I approached her, asking whom I would call if I was interested in getting involved. I was new to the community and determined to find a way to be involved in this mitzvah locally. And so, per Mrs. Witty, I attended the tea that year, but came a few hours early to help with the set up and sat out front collecting pledges and donations and BH have been involved ever since.

Tell us about some fundraising innovations you brought to this tzedakah.

When I was single, I always tried to recruit my single friends to be involved with me, and they too were always happy to have an opportunity to be included in this mitzvah. For several years, my roommates and I ran a 'gift gemach' in our basement for Hachnosas Kallah. Kallahs who had received excess gifts for their wedding, would bring them to our house, and if another Kallah could not afford something, we had gifts to offer for free. We worked together around our dining room table on many mailings and stuffed hundreds of envelopes for the annual tea. We held

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